

REMARKS

Claims 1 is being amended to indicate that the base component (iii) comprises a hydrated form of sodium phosphate; and claims 8 and 26 are being amended to depend from claims 1 and 19, respectively, and to recite that the hydrated form of sodium phosphate is the dodecahydrate. Applicants note page 7, lines 24-34 in connection with these amendments.

In light of the amendment to Claim 1, claims 12 and 33 are being amended to delete reference to the base comprising sodium phosphate. Claims 4, 5 and 7 are being canceled and Claim 6 is being amended to depend from Claim 1 rather than Claim 5. Claims 22, 23 and 25 are being canceled and Claim 24 is being amended to depend from Claim 19 rather than Claim 23.

New claims 38 through 41 are being added, with claims 38 and 39 depending from Claim 1 and claims 40 and 41 depending from Claim 32. Page 21, lines 23-24 are noted in connection with claims 38 and 40; and page 22, lines 1-2 are noted in connection with claims 39 and 41.

The Office Action indicated inter alia that Applicants' argument with respect to the dodecahydrate form of sodium phosphate has been found convincing; and that claims 8 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants note that sodium phosphate (including hydrated forms thereof) is considered a "most preferred" inorganic base (see page 7, lines 24-25); that if the temperature increase caused by anhydrous bases would be excessive, hydrated instead of anhydrous forms of bases are preferred for preparing the mixture for extrusion (see page 7, lines 31-32); and that the heat of hydration of anhydrous sodium phosphate is particularly large (see page 7, line 33). Applicants submit that while the dodecahydrate is a preferred form of sodium phosphate for the process of this invention (see page 7, lines 33-34), other hydrates of sodium phosphate will also clearly provide advantage in moderating the heat of hydration associated with adding water to anhydrous sodium phosphate. Accordingly, Claim 1 has been amended to recite "the base component (iii) comprising a hydrated form of sodium phosphate". Applicants submit that the presence of a hydrated form of sodium phosphate as provided in Claim 1 as amended herein represents a feature for the preparation of a paste-extruded sulfonamide herbicide composition that is neither disclosed or fairly suggested by Sandell et al. and/or Sandell.

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Further to the European Patent Office opposition documents filed along with the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 5, 2007, Applicants enclose herewith grounds for a recent decision in connection with that opposition.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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